MARPLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

LIBRARY
BULL: 3
10/443

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year

ended December 31st, 1940.



Public Health Officers of the Council.

Medical Officer of Health

H. R. DUGDALE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

SAMUEL HODGKINSON, M.S.I.A.

Certificate of R.S.I. and S.I.E. Joint Board as a Sanitary Inspector.

Certificate of R.S.I. as an Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Certificate of R.S.I. in Sanitary Science as Applied to Buildings and Public Works.

Additional Sanitary Inspector.

DAVID THOMAS JONES, M.S.I.A.

Certificate of R.S.I. and S.I.E. Joint Board as a Sanitary Inspector. Certificate of R.S.I. as an Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Clerk.

MARGARET MOORE.

Surveyor and Water Engineer.

THOMAS COOPER, A.M. Inst. C.E., M. Inst. M. & Cty. E.

A Commence of the second

1. (a) General Statistics.

Population (as estimated by the Registrar General)

13,770.

Area (in acres)

Rateable Value (December 31st 1940)

£83,455.

Product of a penny rate.

£333.19.

Chestrin

Number of Inhabited Houses.

4,080.

Births.

1.	Live Births.	Male.	Female.	Total.
	Legitimate.	69.	67.	136.
	Illegitimate.	1.		1.
		70.	67.	137.

Birth Rate per 1000 Estimated Resident Population = 9.94.

2.	Still Births.	Male.	Female.	Total.
	Legitimate.	1.	1.	2,
	Total Live and Still Births.	71.	68.	139.

Rate per 1000 total births = 14.40 or 0.19 per 1000 population.

(c)	Deaths.	Male.			
	1. All co.	70	70	7.40	

Death rate per 1000 estimated resident population = 10.82.

2. Deaths from Puerperal Causes. Nil.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age. 3. Nil.

Deaths from causes (all ages) Male = 13. Female = 18. Total = 31.

(a) Infectious and Contagious Diseases.

DISEASE.	NO. OF CASES	NO. REMOVED TO HOSPITAL.	NO. OF EVACUEES.	DEATHS.
Scarlet Fever.	11.	7.	m o	•••
Diphtheria.	5.	5.		
Pneumonia.	17.			on _{dr}
Erysipelas.	7.		ans .	ou ₀
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.	1.	1.	•• •	
Puerperal Pyrexia.	1.		an .	
Whooping Cough.	10.	•••	~ •	~ •

	DISEASE.	NO. OF CASES NOTIFIED.	NO. REMOVED TO HOSPITAL.	NO. OF EVACUEES.	DEATHS.
	Moasles.	92,	- e		•••
	Chicken Pox.	3,	3.	3 5	
	Paratyphoid B.	10		~ 0	
Monthlygge	Totals .	148.	16.	3.	eto e
Sherving acquire	Scabies.	23,	23.	23.	•••

(b) Pathological Specimens examined.

Nature of Specimen.	No. Examined.	Positive.	Negative.
Swabs for Diphtheria.	34.	1.	33.
Specimens for Typhoid and Paratyphoid B.	9.	2.	7.

(c) <u>Tuberculosis</u>.

New Cases - Mortality during 1940, -

New Cases.				.Deaths.				
Age		nary.		ulmonary		Pulmonary. Non Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.
Period.	Male.	Female	Male	Femalo,	. Male.	Female.	Male	Female.
0 - 1 years.			, em 0	been o		- 0		
1 - 5 years.		•• o	· ·	1.	80 ₀			1.
5 - 15 years.		- 0	← ₀	- •		- 0		
15 - 25 years.		1.						
25 - 35 years.		3.			om 0 ' '			-,'
35 - 45 years.	1.	•	π,•	-,	1.	1.	··· •	
45 - 55 years.				- o .				•
55 - 65 years.		1.		- 0				
65 and upwards				•	-•		··· •	
Totals	3.	5.		1.	1.	1,	•••	1.

The number of cases remaining on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of . the year was:-

	Pulmonary.	Non Pulmonary.
Malos. Femalos.	25. · · · 21.	9. 9.
ì	46.	18,

Specimens of Sputum examined at the Cheshire County Council Laboratory for Tubercle Bacilli:

Positivo.	Negative.	Total.
6;	27.	33.

Moasles notifications were few until December when it became obvious that the epidemic which had affected contiguous areas was beginning in Marple. It would appear that the epidemic spread outwards from the larger ares of population and this is well exemplified in the case of Marple. It was seen from the notifications received in the Bredbury and Romiley Urban District extending over a period of about six menths that the disease was making its way from the Stockport boundary, gradually following the main road to Compstall and then rather more slowly it progressed through Marple Bridge to Marple. The majority of cases were mild in character and there were no deaths from the disease. Apart from Measles, the District has been very free from infectious disease. Four of the cases of Diphtheria were in children of school age none of whom had been immunised.

The majority of the cases of Scabies were children evacuated from the Channel Islands. A number of the cases occurred in two houses where several children were billeted together and it appeared that infection and in one case reinfection could be attributed to a child returning home for a short period or to fresh unofficial evacuees arriving in the house. The number of cases shown in the table relate only to those referred for treatment by a private practitioner, and to those found suffering from the disease at school. While special visits have been made to the schools at regular intervals it is impossible to eradicate the complaint by this means alone and it is essential that parents and foster parents should exercise the utmost vigilance to prove this endemic disease becoming an epidemic.

The numbers of children immunised against Diphtheria has shown a welcome increase over the figures for last year. Of a total of fifty-two children treated, forty-two were under five years of age. It is hoped that the Government scheme for free treatment will give a fresh incentive to parents to eradicate the monace of Diphtheria.

3. Air Raid Shelters.

The problem of shelter hygiene has luckily not arisen to any great extent. The difficulty has been rather lack of use and the impossibility in the face of public apathy of maintaining the places in a fit state for occupation. No shelter marshalls have volunteered and apart from the strengthened basement shelters where the householders themselves keep the places clean the question has been entirely shelved by the local residents. Visits are paid to shelters periodically and while on occasions dust and rubbish blown in by the wind and evidence of wrongful use or malicious damage needed removal no scheme for regular cleansing could be devised at a reasonable cost or indeed appeared necessary. Should 'shalter life' become necessary however, plans have been made for the cleansing of all public shelters but co-operation and a sense of individual responsibility in all users will be necessary.

4. Water.

The water problem for Ludworth particularly and for Mellor to a lesser degree still remains unsolved. Luckily there was another 'poor' summer and despite a largo increase in population the demand for water never exceeded the supply. An opportunity occurred during the year of draining the Upper Devil's Elbow reservoir and while it was empty Dr. Ardern was invited to inspect it. As had been expected, several incoming trickles of water were found at the foot of the banks one of which proved on examination to be contaminated. There is no doubt that those trickles and others which were not discovered are one of the sources of pollution. While it would be possible to make the walls of the reservoir impervious the cost, the fact that there is not sufficient water available and that the gathering ground is already built upon would not justify such an undertaking.

5. Centralised Sla intering,

As a result of the Livestock (Restriction of Slaughtering) Order 1940 the Urban District is supplied with meat from the Gook Street Slaughterhouse, Stockport. For a time after the inception of the scheme inspection of the meat was carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors of the Stockport Corporation but in July the Inspectors of all the Authorities supplied from this slaughterhouse were asked to form a rota to relieve Stockport of this duty. On becoming aware of the conditions existing at No. 3 Slaughterhouse, immediate representation was made to the Ministries of Health and Food and some small improvements were made but not such as to engender confidence in the future running of the place.

6. Evacuation.

At the end of 1939, 586 official evacuees remained in the District but this number had slowly dwindled to 561 by December 1940. In July 70 refugees from the Channel Islands were received a number of whom, owing no doubt to the vicissitudes of the journey, were found to be unclean. Profiting from previous experience a volunteer 'cleansing' squad had been recruited and trained and these ladies dealt with some fifty heads before the children were taken to billets.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Eastwood and Gentlemen,

Yours respectfully,

H. R. DUGDALE.

Medical Officer of Health.